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has, under favourable circumstances of observation, been more or less visible. In order to witness it in perfection the fibre must be on the stretch, for when it is torn from its attachments, or lies relaxed in the bottom of the cell, the striæ become very obscure. When the broken extremity of a fibre is examined, the fracture will be found to have occurred in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the fibre, never exhibiting an uneven or lacerated appearance, and a marked tendency to separate into disks may be recognised in the detached and broken fibre. When the fibre is in an uncontracted state it would seem to be perfectly cylindrical, and the normal act of contraction is so momentary that its condition during this state cannot be witnessed. When, however, the living polypide is torn from its cell, the ruptured fibres, which continue attached to its body, are thrown into a state of spasmodic contraction; and then it will be seen that they lose their cylindricity, and become irregularly swollen at intervals, while the whole fibre has much increased in thickness. In this condition also they may be observed to be obscurely striated. The swellings here visible in the contracted fibre are quite different from the peculiar knots described by Dr. A. Farre in the muscles of the marine polyzoa. Such knots do not exist in the fresh-water species, at least I have never seen them, with the exception, perhaps, of certain little swellings which may be occasionally witnessed in the parietal muscles of *Paludicella*, and in the superior parieto-vaginal muscles of *Plumatella*. In *Paludicella* I have witnessed a curious phenomenon presented by the muscular fibre. In this polyzoon the fibres of the great retractor muscle, while lying relaxed in the bottom of the cell after the retraction of the polypide, may frequently be seen to present a singular motion, impressing you with the idea of a cluster of writhing worms."

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Rev. W. P. Moore read a description of the Vitrified Font of Shantamon, in the county of Cavan, and at the same time presented specimens of the stone of which the font is composed.